

East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB)
Eastern Montgomery Regional Center
3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

MEETING SUMMARY

Members Present: Peter Myo Khin, Roy Chavera, Samantha Blizzard, Jerold Samet, Richard Romer, Kristina McConnell, Elisse Barnes, Kenneth Flemmer, Donald Hague, Jeffrey Bond, Richard Romer, Hildegard Sylla, Sharon Brown, Curtis Watkins, Fatmata Barrie, Fisseha Adugna, and Christopher Bolton.

Guests Present: Ed Weiler, Dan Wilhem, Mark Pharaoh, Mara Parker, Brian Anleu, Vikki Garcia, Jim Donley, Harriette Quinn, Marco Sanchez, Lyla Edwards, Margie G Rood, Jennifer Walls, Vessa A. Oeters, Robert Peters, Patti Alexander, Rob Richardson, Mensah Adjogah, Chris Burt, Len Newman, Leut. Yamada, Officer Hornsby, Eric Luedtke, Tom Hucker, Jheanelle Wilkins, Craig Zucker, Nancy Navaro, Andre Vainqueur

Staff Present: Jewru Bandeh, Linda Cooper

Welcome: The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Community Comments: Guests and members of the community introduced themselves and a comment was made regarding the need for improved cellular phone service in Fairland Acres.

Approval of the May 2, 2018 Meeting Summary: A motion was made to approve the May 2, 2018 meeting summary. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Presentation by Special Guests: Presentations were made by members of the Montgomery County Council and Montgomery County State Legislators which focused on a wrap-up of legislative activities and accomplishments of the past year affecting the East County, as follows:

- **Senator Craig Zucker** highlighted the following items:
 - Neighborhood Block Parties were held throughout the East County to increase citizen awareness of services available and concerns being addressed;
 - A successful job fair was held in East County November 2017;
 - Over \$100 million was invested in public schools, including new HVAC for elementary schools;
 - Legislation was passed to regulate paid political advertising on Facebook;
 - Legislation was passed to prevent employers from using non-disclosure agreements for sexual harassment cases; and,
 - The Muslim Community Center Medical Clinic is gained authorization to dispense medication.
- **Councilmember Tom Hucker** made the following points:

- The budget process was made difficult by a reduction in revenues of \$100 million, requiring cuts to capital spending;
 - The school system was fully funded, but had to fight to add back funding to proposed cuts in public safety;
 - Wins for the East County included \$5.7 million for Hillandale Park, \$12.1 million for MLK Pool renovation, \$4 million for Burtonsville access road, \$4 million for Good Hope Road sidewalk and \$7 million for BRT on New Hampshire Ave.
- **Councilmember Nancy Navarro** discussed the fact that the East County has been overlooked in the past but its needs are now a focus of legislators. She praised the advocacy efforts of Jewru Bandeh, Director of the East County Regional Services Center and noted that incoming county leadership will need to continue to focus on issues such as school overcrowding and job creation.
 - **Delegate Eric Luedtke** discussed the following issues which have been addressed during the past year:
 - Public school issues, including the need for additional funding for construction, comprehensive legislation passed addressing school safety, and tuition-free community college;
 - Gun laws including the ban of bump stocks and a “red flag” law;
 - Dedicated funding for Metro; and
 - Income tax law changes to ensure that Maryland taxpayers were not disproportionately hurt by the Federal tax law changes.
 - **Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins** discussed her efforts to address pre-natal healthcare, sustainability in affordable housing communities, shoring up the Maryland Health Exchange, and clean energy.

Questions posed to and addressed by the panel included the following topics: school safety measures to protect from violence and teacher misconduct, activating more citizen participation in county affairs, emotional intelligence training for students, and incentivizing affordable housing.

Montgomery County Police: Montgomery County Police Officers Hornsby and Yamada gave a brief update on recent crime trends and emphasized the need to lock cars to prevent theft.

ECCAB Sub-Committees Chairs for Planning/Economic Development and Quality of Life Updates: Peter Myo Khin reported that the next meeting will be a joint meeting of the two committees with the topic of food security.

Montgomery County East County Regional Office Director Jewru Bandeh discussed the upcoming timeline for new board member interviews, activities during the summer recess, the Monthly East County Community Calendar, August 7th National Night Out, ECCAB Reimbursement Request Form, ECCAB Election of Officers.

Adjournment: This meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.